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VORONEZH OBLAST IMPROVES MEDICAL SERVICE

Recently, there have been many changes in the medical aid organization of Voronezh Oblast. The progress achieved can be visualized by the fact that at the present time 580 specialists are assigned to rayon centers. Sixty-four of the rayon hospitals have six or more specialists while 15 have from four to six specialists.

All of the oblast's 250 rural medical organizations are staffed with competent doctors. In spite of these achievements, the rural doctor still requires special assistance to render optimum medical service. The Voronezh Medical Institute has much to offer in this direction.

Until recently there was poor liaison between the Institute and the rural health organizations. However, after a letter was sent to it by the Ministry of Health USSR a remarkable change took place. In the 2 months following the receipt of this letter by the Institute, excellent liaison was established.

A group of specialists was sent to Talov Rayon (Kamsnaya Step'). Their first assignments were study of the fauna of blood-sucking mosquitoes, breeding grounds of the anopholes mosquito and medical significance of the establishment of antierosion forest belts. The Chair of Microbiology has developed a complex method for treating dysentery cases. Work is now being done to determine the health conditions of each rayon of the oblast. These, however, are only the first steps in the program to make the Voronezh health service the best in the USSR.

The personnel of this service have accepted the task of eliminating parasitic infections by the end of the year. Efforts will be made to establish proper organizations for dealing with traumatological problems of rural communities. It appears that for some time rayon hospitals in Paninskaya, Khlevenskaya, and Annenskaya rayons have not only failed to give aid to rural inhabitants, but have also actually ignored needs of people in their own communities. The trouble appeared to be a lack of qualified specialists. There were frequent conferences on the shortcomings of medical service for

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rural communities, but these never progressed beyond the conference stage. Recently, however, the Voronezh Oblast Hospital has started to survey various medical organizations in the oblast and intends to draw up a comprehensive plan for improvement. The most important problem is improving the qualifications of medical personnel. It is hoped that shortly the Voronezh Medical Institute will become the best organized in the Union.

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